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message, the mobile station determining whether the short message indicates that a special application is required in the mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, determining whether the special application is supported in the mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, requesting an application service center to provide a service usable according to the special application, the mobile station receiving the service in the form of a special content message from the application service center, and the mobile station processing the special content message according to the special application.

According to a second aspect of the invention, a method for use by an application service center in providing a special content message provided by an originating mobile station in a mobile communications system to a terminating mobile station in the system, comprises the steps of the center receiving the special content message from the originating mobile station with a request to send the special content message to the terminating mobile station and providing a short message to the terminating mobile station with a part of the short message indicating that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station to fully process the special content message and with a textual part of the short message for use by the terminating mobile station in the event that the special application is not supported by the terminating mobile station, the center receiving a request from the terminating mobile station that the special content message be sent, and the center sending the special content message to the terminating mobile station in response to the request from the terminating mobile station or in the absence of a request from the terminating mobile station, posting the special content message on an internet web page accessible according to the textual part of the short message.

According to a third aspect of the invention, a method for use in a mobile communications system including an application service center for providing a special content message provided by an originating mobile station of the system to a terminating mobile station of the system comprises the steps of the center receiving the special content message from the originating mobile station with a request to send the special content message to the terminating mobile station and providing a short message to the terminating mobile station with a part of the short message indicating that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station to fully process the special content message and with a textual part of the short message for use by the terminating mobile station in the event that the special application is not supported by the terminating mobile station, the terminating mobile station receiving the short message, the terminating mobile station determining whether the short message indicates that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, determining whether the special application is supported in the terminating mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, sending a request to the application service center to provide the special content message, the center receiving the request from the terminating mobile station that the special content message be sent, the center sending the special content message to the terminating mobile station, the terminating mobile station receiving the special content message from the application service center, and the terminating mobile station providing the special content message to the user according to the special application.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, a mobile station for use in a mobile communications system for

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receiving a service from an application service center, comprises means for receiving a short message, means for determining whether the short message indicates that a special application is required in the mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, determining whether the special application is supported in the mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, requesting that the application service center provide a special content message for processing in the mobile station according to the special application, means for receiving the special content message from the application service center, and means for providing the special content message to a user of the mobile station according to the special application.

According to a fifth aspect of the invention, an application service center for use in providing a special content message requested or provided by an originating mobile station in a mobile communications system to a terminating mobile station in the system comprises means for receiving the special content message from the originating mobile station with a request to send the special content message to the terminating mobile station, means for providing a short message to the terminating mobile station with a part of the short message indicating that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station to fully process the special content message and with a textual part of the short message for use by the terminating mobile station in the event that the special application is not supported by the terminating mobile station, means for posting said special content message to a web page accessible according to said short message in said event, means for receiving a request from the terminating mobile station that the special content message be sent, and means for sending the special content message to the terminating mobile station.

According to a sixth aspect of the invention, a mobile communications system comprises an originating mobile station for providing a special content message with a destination address, a terminating mobile station with the destination address provided by the originating mobile station for receiving the special content message, an application service center for receiving the special content message from the originating mobile station with a request to send the special content message to the terminating mobile station, the center for providing a short message to the terminating mobile station with a part of the short message indicating that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station to fully process the special content message and with a textual part of the short message for use by the terminating mobile station in the event that the special application is not supported by the terminating mobile station and including means for posting said special content message to a web page accessible according to said short message in said event, wherein the terminating mobile station includes means for receiving the short message, means for determining whether the short message indicates that a special application is required in the terminating mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a short message and, if so, determining whether the special application is supported in the terminating mobile station and, if not, processing the short message as a normal short message and, if so, sending a request to the application service center to provide a service usable according to the special application, the center having means for receiving the request from the terminating mobile station that the special content message be sent, as well as means for sending the special content message to the terminating mobile station, wherein the terminating mobile station has